ADA Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes November 2, 2011

The Jackson ADA Advisory Council meeting was held in the Hoods Bldg. Members attending this meeting were: Lee Cole (Chairperson), Rev. Sam Gleese (City ADA Coordinator), Dr. Scott Crawford, Karen Robinson, Jackie Washington, Lynn Hill, Jan Hawthorne, Namon Hulett (AARP), and Jason Bunch. Others attending were: Corinne Fox (City of Jackson-Director of Planning & Development), Bennie Hopkins (Deputy Director of Planning & Development City of Jackson), Azande Williams(City of Jackson Deputy Attorney), Lindsey Horton (J.P.D. Deputy Chief), Perry Martin(J.P.D.), Fred Myers, Dewayne Banks, and Kay Hardage(Attorney-Disability Rights of MS).

- I. Lee Cole called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.
- II. Members and guests introduced themselves.
- III. Jan Hawthorne read the minutes. There were several corrections made and minutes was approved by council members.

New Business

- IV. Sam Gleese has been in contact with VA in an effort to identify a veteran to serve on the Council. They identified one person; however, they have not contacted Sam as of today. An email was sent to the Office of Deaf and Hard of Hearing in an effort to identify a deaf person to serve on the Council as well. To this point no one has responded.
- V. Sam Gleese will invite Thelman Boyd to the next month's meeting to give and update on the forms that will be used by citizens who do not have access to the internet to be included in the Code Red System. The City of Jackson has implemented a city warning system (Code Red). This is the notification system to inform the city of boiling water alerts, impending storms and other weather warnings, i.e. flash floods, tornadoes, etc. The system is also used to inform City employees. The system works by calling a citizen three times (if there is no answer, the System will leave a message on the answering machine which is considered an answer.) Ms. Foxx informed us that the City is applying with NWS (National

- Weather Service) to become a storm-ready community. Citizen with internet service can access the service via website (www.Jackson.gov).
- VI. Sam Gleese received positive feedback from everyone who participated in Disability Awareness Day; the goal to have 25 Exhibitors which we exceeded Sam's expectation, a total of 40 Exhibitors register for this event. On that day spectators were entertained by MS School for the Blind Choir and Band, children and staff from Magnolia Speech School, and the Silver Slippers. Their performance was outstanding. Mayor Harvey Johnson, Jr., was very excited as well as Mr. Michael Raff (Director of Human and Cultural Services) and Mr. Louis Armstrong (Deputy Director of Human and Cultural Services). There is a firm suggestion that this will become an annual day.
- VII. Azanda Williams (City of Jackson, MS Deputy City Attorney), updated the council members on the status of the City's transition plan as it relates to curb cuts and streets only. In response to a complaint filed by Dr. Crawford the City was required to respond with the portion of its transition plan that related to curbs cuts, ramps, streets and sidewalks by November 1, 2011. That document was prepared and submitted to the Federal Highway Department on October 31, 2011. advised the council further that on October 17, 2011 the City met with the representatives of the ADA advisory council along with Christine Woodell (ADA Coordinator for LIFE), to discuss the draft document. The City is still working on finalizing the complete transition plan which will cover services and facilities. There will be a public hearing held to secure public input and the City will continue to work with the ADA advisory council on this document. The City recognizes that this is a living document and that changes will occur to the document periodically. Additionally, as far as curb cuts ramps and sidewalks are concerned, the City has changed its policy of when and where they are installed. Previously, the City was under the belief that if there is any evidence of pedestrian travel, when a street is resurfaced a curb cut must be installed at that location. This procedure will no longer be followed, thereby eliminating "curb cuts to nowhere." Which has been a complaint and problem throughout the country.
- VIII. Scott Crawford attended a meeting on October 17, 2011 in which the City's Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan was the first item on the agenda. According to Scott Crawford in reviewing comprehensive Self-Evaluation of the City's Sidewalk, it was a targeted survey of **some** of the streets that was repaved in 2009. He cited Bailey Avenue as a prime example of how the City has effectively discriminated against all pedestrians, by repaving the street whilst leaving the adjoining sidewalks unusable. Such discrimination has disproportionate impact on people with disabilities, and people with lower incomes.

- IX. Finally, Scott expressed concern that the proposed budget of \$50,000 for sidewalk improvements would rule out substantive progress in coming into compliance with ADA.
- X. Ms. Williams stated since the October 17th meeting, new budget figures have been proposed, and it has been placed in the Transition Plan for review.

Old Business

XI. Sam is searching for replacements for vacancies from Ward three and four to serve on the ADA Advisory Council.

Announcement

- XII. Corinne Fox announced her retirement this month. Her replacement will be Bennie Hopkins.
- XIII. Lynn Hill had the opportunity to address an audience of potential students interested in people overcoming their disabilities and maintaining an independent life style.

The next meeting will be held on December 7, 2011, at 1pm, Hood Bldg. The meeting was adjourned by 2:31 pm.

These Minutes were prepared by Mrs. Jackie Washington.

These Minutes were approved at the March 07, 2012 meeting of the ADA Advisory Council.